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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**CRACK COCAINE DEALER SENTENCED TO
MORE THAN 24 YEARS IN PRISON**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that WILLIE LEE HARDIMAN, 40, Terre Haute, Indiana, was sentenced to 292 months imprisonment yesterday by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following his conviction at trial March 22, 2006 for conspiracy to distribute cocaine base. This case was the result of a month long investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Vigo County Drug Task Force, Vincennes Police Department, and Terre Haute Police Department..

On December 16, 2005, the federal and state law enforcement agencies conducted a controlled purchase of two ounces of crack cocaine from WILLIE HARDIMAN and his brother, Leslie Hardiman. The Terre Haute Police Department attempted to stop the vehicle occupied by the Hardiman brothers immediately before the scheduled drug transaction. Following a chase

with law enforcement, WILLIE HARDIMAN fled the vehicle and threw the crack cocaine into a bush.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Bradley A. Blackington, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed 10 years supervised release following HARDIMAN's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, HARDIMAN must get drug treatment. HARDIMAN was fined in the amount of \$1,000. HARDIMAN's brother, Leslie, is scheduled to be sentenced on July 28, 2006.

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